

Message Text

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12

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OIC-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 EB-07 CIEP-01 TRSE-00

STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00 FRB-03 XMB-02 OPIC-03

LAB-04 SIL-01 IO-10 /094 W
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O R 280322Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 953

INFO ALL OAS CAPITALS 018

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USDEL 047

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, OAS

SUBJECT: PROTOCOL OF AMENDMENT OT RIO TREATY SIGNED

1. THE 21 PARTIES TO THE RIO TREATY SIGNED THE PROTOCOL OF AMENDMENT IN A FORMAL CEREMONY IN THE HOTEL IRAZU JULY 26.
2. FOREIGN MINISTER JIMENEZ OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC SPOKE BRIEFLY ON BEHALF OF THE PLENIPOTENTIARIES, MAINLY IN PRAISE OF COSTA RICAN HOSPITALITY AND THE CONFERENCE'S ACHIEVEMENTS.
3. OAS SECRETARY GENERAL ORFILA ALSO GAVE A SHORT SPEECH. HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED THE ARTICLE ON COLLECTIVE ECONOMIC SECURITY WHICH WAS INCORPORATED INTO THE PROTOCOL. HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT IN THE COMING DISCUSSIONS IN THE OAS THE U.S. WOULD BE ABLE TO JOIN IN SUPPORTING IT.

4. FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO OF COSTA RICA GAVE THE FINAL
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SPEECH -- A GUTSY ONE WHICH PRAISED THE TREATY AND ROASTED THOSE

WHO HAVE WEAKENED OR BEEN UNREASONABLY CRITICAL OF THE RIO TREATY, AS WELL AS THOSE WHO HAVE VIOLATED IT OR ABUSED IT. HE SAID THAT

"WILD-EYED LEFTISTS" (LA IZQUIERDA ENERGUMENA) WERE PRO-PAGANDIZING AGAINST THE TREATY, FALSELY CLAIMING THAT IT WAS AN INSTRUMENT OF U. S. HEGEMONY.

5. HE REELED OFF TEN CASES IN WHICH THE RIO TREATY HAD BEEN USED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PEACE OF THE HEMISPHERE, BUT CALLED THE 1962 AND 1964 ACTIONS AGAINST CUBA AS "EXCEPTIONS", APPLICABLE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COLD WAR.

6. FACIO MADE A STRONG AND IMPRESSIVE APPEAL FOR RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW AND TREATIES IN PARTICULAR. "THE SMALLER AND POORER THE COUNTRY, THE MORE IT NEEDS THE PROTECTION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW. THIS IS A TRUTH THAT SMALL STATES OFTEN FORGET WHEN, FACED WITH THE ABUSE OF STRENGTH OF LARGE COUNTRIES, THEY ALSO TRY TO IGNORE INTERNATIONAL LAW, WITH THE ILLUSORY ASSERTION THAT DOMESTIC LAW OR THEIR OWN SOVEREIGN POLITICAL WILL IS SUPREME."

7. COMMENT: FUIIO'S SPEECH HAD BARBS FOR ALMOST EVERYONE. A PERUVIAN DELEGATE WAS HEARD AFTERWARDS TO MAKE AN INDIGNANT REMARK ABOUT THE SPEECH'S REFERENCE TO WILD-EYED LEFTISTS. THE IMPASSIONED APPEAL FOR THE SANCTITY OF TREATIES WAS DOUBTLESS AIMED AT THOSE WHO HAVE IGNORED THE RIO TREATY'S CUBA SANCTIONS, BUT IT MAY HAVE HAD A MESSAGE TOO FOR PANAMA AND THE THIRD WORLD IN GENERAL, IN SO FAR AS IT IS DETERMINED TO GO ITS WAY REGARDLESS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS. TODMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SANJO03128
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750259-0456
From: SAN JOSE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750715/aaaaanux.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 SEP 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROTOCOL OF AMENDMENT OT RIO TREATY SIGNED
TAGS: OCON, OAS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006